

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

News Release

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NDPRD announces 2013 Award Winners

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) announces its 2013 award winners.

Administrative Officer **Carol Jorgenson** received the NDPRD's highest award, the Cal Renner Award of Excellence. The Cal Renner award recognizes any individual, group or business whose efforts have contributed substantially to furthering the goals of the department. Jorgenson has been with NDPRD for 38 years and is the department's "go-to" person when it comes to fiscal management.

Five were selected to receive the NDPRD's Special Merit Award, which is given to a person or group who go above and beyond expectations in their efforts related to state parks.

- **Marie Challes**, of Williston, ND, was recognized for her volunteer efforts at Lewis and Clark State Park.
- State Senator **Stan Lyson**, representing District 1 out of Williston, was instrumental in adding NDPRD Peace Officers to the "law enforcement" definition of those officers eligible for the WSI Law Enforcement exemption.
- Pembina County Public Health Administrator **Jeanne Chaput** was recognized for helping Icelandic State Park in developing a smoke-free zone plan, providing signage and buying cigarette receptacles.
- FHWA ND Division Financial Manager **Sandy Zimmer** and FWHA Financial Specialist **Kari Steier**, played an important part as the NDPRD Recreation Division transitioned to a new manager and grants coordinator.

Several NDPRD employees were recipients of the Merit Award which recognizes staff who go above and beyond the standards set for their position.

- Little Missouri State Park Ranger/Supervisor **Jarod Matzke** was confronted with many challenges and obstacles in his first year at the park and managed to handle each with great poise.
- Little Missouri State Park seasonal Ranger **John Latch** was recognized for the aid and assistance he provided during a park visitor's medical emergency.

- Headquarters administrative staff of **Carol Jorgenson, Kathy Renner, Stacy High** and **Emily Gullicks** stepped up to take on additional duties and responsibilities while a Business Manager replacement was found.
- **Marc Brown (Planner), Erik Dietrich (Motorized Education Coordinator), Kevin Stankiewicz (Grants Coordinator)** and **Matt Gardner (Recreation Division Manager)** agreed to take on the responsibilities of leading a trail building workshop when the organization that originally was going to hold the workshop was unable to do so.
- Operations Assistant **Karen Assel** guided the process to bid and award a new contract for the NDPRD's Vendor Services and Call Center Operations.
- Icelandic State Park Manager **Justin Robinson and his staff** were recognized for their efforts during spring flooding which threatened Renwick Dam and the community of Cavalier.
- Grahams Island State Park Manager **Henry Duray and staff** were recognized for their efforts in the massive tree and shrub planting project in 2013 in which over 12,800 tree and shrubs were planted, the single largest planting effort in NDPRD history.

The awards were to be awarded during the NDPRD's winter meetings in December, but because of weather conditions the three-day gathering was cancelled.